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Agenda item 123

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

**The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons
in all its aspects**

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.47

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

1. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November 2001, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.47 without a vote. A statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee in document A/C.1/56/L.61.

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 10, 12 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.47, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,¹ the date and venue to be decided at its fifty-eighth session;

(b) Also decide to convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis, commencing in 2003, to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to ensure that resources and expertise are made available to the Secretariat to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to undertake a United Nations study, commencing during its fifty-sixth session, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by States in a position to do so, and with the



assistance of governmental experts appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, while seeking the views of States, to examining the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons and to submit the study to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

(e) Further request the Secretary-General, within existing resources, through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on implementation by those States of the Programme of Action;

(f) Request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work

3. The activities referred to above would fall under programme 2, Disarmament, and programme 6, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.²

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. Pursuant to operative paragraph 2, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would serve as the substantive secretariat for the biennial meeting of States in 2003.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraph 8, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would need to undertake additional initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, such as liaising with relevant government officials, subregional, regional and international organizations; conducting research on various aspects of the small arms and light weapons issue; carrying out advocacy and outreach programmes with various sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs); organizing seminars, workshops and training programmes at the international, regional and subregional levels aimed at enhancing capacity of States to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and at promoting cooperation and coordination among States.

6. Pursuant to operative paragraph 10, in 2002 and 2003 the Department for Disarmament Affairs would organize and service three sessions of the group of governmental experts on the basis of equitable geographical representation and assist in preparing a report on the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons.

7. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would receive, collate and circulate data and information provided by States, on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on implementation by those States of the Programme of Action. This would require, inter alia, the establishment of a computerized database that would store the submitted data and information.

IV. Modification of the programme of work and the programme budget for 2002-2003

8. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft resolution, the narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be modified to amend the outputs already foreseen in respect of small arms and light weapons issues. Subject to the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, this narrative will be incorporated into the final version of the programme of work of section 4 of the programme budget for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Outputs

Paragraph 4.29 (a)

Under servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, add the following:

- (x) First biennial meeting of States to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action (2003);
- (xi) Group of governmental experts on the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons (1 session in 2002, 2 sessions in 2003);

Under parliamentary documentation, add the following:

Report on the implementation of the current resolution (1, 2002);

Paragraph 4.29 (b)

Under other substantive activities, add the following:

- (vi) Design and establishment of a computerized database of information provided by States on a voluntary basis on implementation of the Programme of Action;

V. Estimates of resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

9. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for three sessions of the group of governmental experts referred to in operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution are estimated at \$715,100. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the biennial meeting of States referred to in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution are estimated at \$362,600. The extent to which the Organization's capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003. However, provision is made under the relevant section for conference services of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. Consequently,

should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriation would be required for conference-servicing costs.

10. With regard to the conference referred to in operative paragraph 1, to be convened no later than 2006, it is not possible at this point to estimate the related conference-servicing requirements. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution and a mandate be given for the convening of such a conference, the necessary resource requirements would have to be reflected in the context of the budget outline and the proposed programme budget for the relevant biennium.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

11. Current staff resources under section 4 of the proposed programme budget are fully seized with activities as outlined in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Therefore, in order to prepare, organize and service the biennial meeting and the expert group meetings as well as promote the Programme of Action, as described in paragraph 5 above, additional staff would be required for the Department for Disarmament Affairs as a consequence of operative paragraphs 2, 8 and 10. Consultancy services would also be required to provide expertise in addressing the issues to be considered by the biennial meeting of States and those to be considered by the group of governmental experts, including the preparation of the final reports and other documentation.

12. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 10, additional resources would also be required for travel of up to 20 experts for three one week meetings in New York.

13. With respect to operative paragraph 12, the establishment, upgrading and maintenance of the database for the purpose of collating and disseminating information received from States would require staff from the Department for Disarmament Affairs with political expertise, especially in the area of small arms and light weapons. Such expertise is currently not available within the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

14. With regard to the conference referred to in operative paragraph 1, to be convened no later than 2006, it is not possible at this point to estimate the related resource requirements. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution and a mandate be given for the convening of such a conference, the necessary resource requirements would have to be reflected in the context of the budget outline and the proposed programme budget for the relevant biennium.

15. It is anticipated, therefore, that the work outlined in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 above would require the establishment of one P-4 level post and one General Service (Other level) post, as well as the provision of five work weeks of consultancy services and resources for the travel of experts.

16. The additional requirements for the implementation of the above programme of work, as outlined in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 above, are estimated at \$559,800, as follows: \$456,100 under section 4, Disarmament, \$59,900 under section 27 D, Office of Central Support Services, and \$43,800 under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The details of these requirements are as follows:

Posts

P-4 level Political Affairs Officer	138 000
General Service (Other level)	<u>79 000</u>
	217 000

Consultants**Biennial meeting**

Fee (2 work weeks at \$2,000 per week)	4 000
Travel \$2,500 + \$3,575 (\$275 x 13 days) + 160	6 200

Expert group

Fee (3 work weeks at \$2,000 per week)	6 000
Travel \$2,500 + \$1,650 (\$275 x 6 days) + \$160 x 3 trips	<u>12 900</u>
	29 100

Ad hoc experts

Travel of 20 participants to three five-day meetings \$3,500 x 60	210 000
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Common service costs

Requirements in respect of 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)	<u>59 900</u>
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Total	516 000
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Section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment.	<u>43 800</u>
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Grand total	559 800
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VI. Potential for absorption

17. No provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 in relation to the Programme of Action. At this stage, notwithstanding the use of the wording "within existing resources" in the draft resolution, these requirements could not be absorbed within the existing resources under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. This position is consistent with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and paragraph 66 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/54/7), as subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/249. Consequently, if additional funds are not provided, the mandated activities may not be implemented.

VII. Contingency fund

18. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same

procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities.

19. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 4 foreseen for the biennium 2002-2003 would have to be further reprogrammed and modified beyond the proposals included in the present statement.

VIII. Summary

20. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.47, that decision would give rise to additional requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 4, Disarmament, and section 32, Staff assessment. No provisions were made under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 to cover the additional requirements.

21. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.

22. Consequently, an additional provision of \$559,800 would be required over and above the resources proposed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. That provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriations for the biennium as follows:

Section 4	Disarmament	\$456 100
Section 27 D	Office of Central Support Services	\$59 900
Section 32	Staff assessment (to be offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment)	<u>\$43 800</u>
Total		\$559 800

Notes

¹ A/CONF.192/15, para. 24.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/55/6/Rev.1).*

Annex

Estimates for the three sessions of the group of governmental experts, to be convened in 2002 and 2003, and the biennial meeting of States, to be convened in 2003^a

(In United States dollars)

	<i>Group of governmental experts</i>	<i>Biennial meeting of States</i>	<i>Total estimates</i>
(a) Conference-servicing costs			
Meeting servicing	192 000	63 700	255 700
Pre-session documentation	108 500	59 200	167 700
In-session documentation	247 800	173 200	421 000
Post-session documentation	143 600	58 900	202 500
Other conference services	23 200	7 600	30 800
Subtotal (a)	715 100	362 600	1 077 700
(b) Non-conference-servicing costs			
1 temporary post at the P-4 level for 24 work-months ^b	138 000		138 000
1 temporary post at the General Service (Other level) level for 24 work-months ^b	79 000		79 000
Consultants (3 work-weeks for the biennial meeting and 3 work-weeks for the expert group)	10 200	18 900	29 100
Travel of participants to the expert group meetings (20 participants)	210 000		210 000
Common service costs in respect of 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)	59 900		59 900
Subtotal (b)	497 100	18 900	516 000
Total (net)	1 212 200	381 500	1 533 800
(c) Staff assessment	43 800		43 800
Grand total (gross)	1 256 000	381 500	1 637 500

^a All figures are rounded to the nearest \$100.

^b The incumbent of the post will undertake work related to both the expert groups and the 2003 biennial meetings of States, as well as other work related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.